



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 17th
June 2018

Mass Book: Page 95

First Holy Communion

Why do the sacraments exist? It is important for us to keep coming back to that fundamental question. Have you ever been given a present and not known what it was? If so you probably received it politely but the experience of opening the package didn't exactly fill you with excitement or gratitude. If you were lucky perhaps someone showed you how to switch it on and then suddenly you found you'd been given the latest technological gizmo. The thing is that we don't know what something is until we know what it's for. And unless we know what something is we can't really appreciate it.

In the Church for decades we have been very efficient at sacramentalising children and adults but very poor at introducing

them to a relationship with Jesus Christ. As a consequence within a few years the vast majority of children who receive the sacraments stop practising the faith. Somehow we have reduced the sacraments to age related rites of passage and feign surprise when those receiving them pass out the door never to return. If you think about it, it's crazy!

The sacraments exist to nurture and deepen our relationship with God. They pre-suppose an active faith lived out in fellowship and prayer.

I think it is a mistake to link sacraments with a specific age. People should receive them when they are ready not because they happen to be in a certain year group. I also think it is a mistake to put all the emphasis on the children. Someone said

recently that *"if you have the children but don't have the parents, you don't have the children"*. Catechists work hard to instruct children but what really counts is the way the faith is lived at home.

For First Communion enrolment next year I am going to invite **parents** to attend four classes which will outline the principles and expectations of Christian family life. Having completed the four classes they will be able to decide whether they want their children to be prepared in the parish for the sacrament of Confession and, later, for First Holy Communion.

I know it will be inconvenient for some parents but I am sure that those who embrace it will find the experience enriches their family's faith.

Parish Life & News

Can You Help?

How are your trifle making skills? Can you barbecue?

We need some deserts for the Living Word Weekend and are hoping that some of our parishioners will help us out by contributing their speciality dish. We also need some volunteers to look after the barbecue on the Sunday afternoon when we are inviting all our parishioners, and especially our families to join us for a barbecue and Living Word session after the 11.00am Mass. Please contact the parish office if you can help. Thanks.

Two Sponsors Still Needed

It is really fantastic that we have now had enough sponsors to be able to employ a full-time Director of pastoral Ministries to help Fr Stephen develop what has begun in the parish. Please pray we find the right person.

We still need, however, two more sponsors to employ a part-time Operations Manager who can develop the operations and administrative side of parish life. Sponsors make a three year commitment of £5k per year.

Please help us if you can. It will really make a difference in our parish.

"Understanding Sex and Gender"

A Conference for Catholic Educators

13-14 July 2018, St. Mary's Twickenham

Catholic educators know firsthand the difficult task of teaching in the midst of a growing trend of confusion surrounding personal identity, particularly sex and gender. Many feel ill-prepared to address these challenging issues, especially in a faith school setting.

In order to support those in Catholic education and formation, St. Patrick's Soho is partnering with the **Humanum Institute** to offer a two-day, multi-disciplinary conference for Catholic educators on the topic of sex and gender. We will have experts from the fields of philosophy, psychology, spirituality, law, and others to help us gain insight into the Catholic perspective on this challenging topic.

The conference is open to teachers, clergy, chaplains, parents, catechists, and anyone in a formation role who is interested in learning more. Educators in Catholic schools will especially benefit from a 90 minute workshop with specialist lawyers who will explain the current legal landscape surrounding these issues, as well as answer questions about specific situations for faith schools.

Friday's Keynote Address, "Sexuality, Discipleship, and Evangelisation: Humanae Vitae 50 Years Later" is free and open to the public. Speaker Fr. Anthony Doe, is a well-respected and experienced psychotherapist and priest.

RSVP at www.sexandgender2018.com

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

Parish Surgery will be on Monday evening this week from 6.30pm until 8.00pm. This is the time to come to see me without needing to wait for an appointment. It is also the only time I book baptisms and weddings.

New Parishioners Evening

Are you new to St Elizabeth's? We would love to get to know you better and give you a chance to meet some other parishioners. Our next evening celebration for new parishioners will be this Monday (18th June) in the presbytery at 8.00pm. It's very informal but it helps if you could email the office to let us know you're coming.

Parish Feast Day - 4th July

The feast day of St Elizabeth of Portugal will soon be upon us. This is not only an opportunity not only for us to honour our heavenly patron, but also for our whole community to come together and celebrate. There will be Mass at 7pm, followed by a party in the parish garden, to which everyone is invited. There will be prosecco, soft

drinks, and canapés, and we ask you to bring bite-sized desserts.

CWL Meeting

The Catholic Women's League will have their monthly meeting in the crypt on Thursday, June 21st at 19.30. Our guest speaker, Scott Coleman, will give a talk on St Thomas More, on the eve of his feast day. Visitors welcome.

Natural Fertility Matters

For more information about natural ways to achieve or space out pregnancy please visit www.naturalfertilitymatters.com

or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923 for a free and confidential consultation.

Becoming a Catholic

Looking ahead to next year, it would be very helpful to know how many of our parishioners have questions about becoming a Catholic. Sometimes it is possible to link people with an individual to help them explore the faith and sometimes it makes sense to have a small group exploring the faith together. Let me know if interested.

Living Word Weekend

29th June - 1st July

St Elizabeth's warmly invites you to join us for our Living Word Weekend. The weekend will deepen your understanding of the Bible's relevance to everyday life, and connect you with new people in the parish community.

You can join us for the just one session or for the whole weekend!

Book your place today at:

www.stelizabethschurch.org.uk/word

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£205.00
Not Gift Aid	£688.88
Total	£893.88

Today's second collection is for the Day for Life, which supports pro-Life activities including the Anscombe Bioethics Centre.

Last week's second collection was £134.93: thank you.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	92
Sun. 9.30am	120
Sun. 11.00am	132
Sun. 5.30pm	112
Total:	456

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



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Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Monday

9.00am

Tuesday

9.00am

Wednesday

9.00am

Thursday

7.00pm

Friday

10.00am

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Eleventh Sunday

Terence Woram RIP

Pro Populo

Bishop Francis Walmsley RIP

Fr David Weston RIP

Feria

Peggy & Ken Alp RIP

Feria

George Patchett

CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH

Kathleen Woplin

St Aloysius Gonzaga

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

SS. John Fisher & Thomas More

Laura D'Silva

Our Lady

Deceased members of the Dunne Family RIP

THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Canon Francis Harrington RIP

Kathleen Woplin RIP

Pro Populo

Please Pray For:

Fr Philip Matthias, Christopher Browne, Philomena Dunne, Gaye Delanghe, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson, Peter Connor.

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Planned Giving

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